

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
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DEPT OF ENERGY FOR HILL AND DUNNING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ENERG, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: GAS: USDEL VISIT
(08.05): SOVIET RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OFF-SHORE DRILLING

REF: MOSCOW 2085

1. IN VIEW OF MINISTRY OF THE GAS INDUSTRY'S CLAIMED
INABILITY TO INCLUDE OFF-SHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS IN
ITINERARY FOR SUBJECT USDEL (REFTEL), SCIENCE OFFICE
HAS BEEN INQUIRING INTO CURRENT STATUS OF SOVIET OFF-
SHORE DRILLING RESPONSIBILITIES IN ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE
PROGRAM.

2. DEMIDOV, MINGAZPROM FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF, EXPLAINED
TO EMBOFF FEB 10 THAT HIS MINISTRY'S OFF-SHORE ACTIVITIES
ARE VERY SMALL. ACCORDING TO DEMIDOV, CURRENT LACK OF
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ATTENTION TO OFF-SHORE OPERATIONS "GIVES STOMACH PAINS TO
MINISTER ORUDZHEV, WHO PERSONALLY LED THE BUILDING OF THE
FIRST CASPIAN OFF-SHORE DRILLING." DEMIDOV SAID THAT
ORUDZHEV INITIATED PROPOSAL, NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE
GOVERNMENT, FOR A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR
ALL SOVIET GAS AND OIL OFF-SHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS.

3. DEMIDOV SAID THAT NEW ORGANIZATION WOULD COMBINE OFF-SHORE ACTIVITIES OF MINGAZPROM AND MINNEFTPROM AND THUS ACHIEVE A BETTER FOCUS. DEMIDOV SAID THAT CREATION OF SUCH A NEW ORGANIZATION HAS RECENT PRECEDENT; MINGAZPROM FORMERLY HAD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL GAS FIELD OPERATIONS, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS. THE JOB WAS TOO LARGE AND TOO DIFFUSE ACCORDING TO DEMIDOV, THEREFORE THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION OF PETROLEUM- AND GAS-INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES WAS CREATED. DEMIDOV STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT NEW ORGANIZATION, IF IT COMES ABOUT, MAY WELL NOT BE A MINISTRY, BUT COULD BE A MAIN DIRECTORATE (GLAVNOYE UPRAVLENIYE). ASKED WHEN GOVERNMENT DECISION WOULD BE MADE, DEMIDOV SAID THAT OUTCOME OF DECISION TO CREATE NEW AGENCY IS UNSURE; TIMING HE COULD NOT HOPE TO PREDICT.

4. IN DISCUSSION FEB 15 WITH SCST USA DIVISION CHIEF AYKAZYAN ON COORDINATION DIFFICULTIES WITH SUBJECT VISIT, SCIOUS ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF CREATION OF NEW ORGANIZATION. AYKAZYAN STATED THAT OFF-SHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS ARE CURRENTLY A VIRTUAL MONOPOLY OF MINNEFTPROM. AYKAZYAN COMMENTED THAT MINNEFTPROM IS FULLY OCCUPIED WITH INLAND OPERATIONS IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED LARGE NEW OFF-SHORE PROGRAMS, THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION IS NOW UNDER REVIEW. AYKAZYAN STATED OUTCOME IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS POINT, BUT IF NEW ORGANIZATION IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMED, IT MAY WELL NOT BE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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